

DISASTROUS FIRE IN CHICAGO.

Merchants' Hotel Totally Destroyed by Fire—Five Stores and Three Saloons in Ruins—The Guests of the Hotel Driven from their Beds by the Flames—Perils and Miraculous Escapes—Estimated Loss, \$100,000—Insurance, \$60,000.

Chicago has once more become the subject of a devastating conflagration, that terror to all, the Fire King, having visited the heart of the city, laying waste one of the finest hotels of which our fair city once could boast. The alarm was first given from box No. 8, about 7 o'clock yesterday morning. The fire department was once on the fire, and those engines within the district for which the alarm was given, were very soon on the ground and at work. The fire proved to be in the basement of the Merchants' Hotel, situated at the corner of Washington and State streets. The flames had reached an ascendancy alarming in itself before a single stream was playing upon them, and it was deemed advisable to repeat the alarm—call forth the main fire department of the city. In a short time the two great thoroughfares, Washington and State streets, were thronged with people, and amid the great confusion were running to and fro steamers, and all vehicles of all descriptions, creating a perfect chaos. The seething, crackling flames were bursting from every window above the main entrance to the building on State street, and all hope for the safety of the hundred or more occupants was abandoned. The fire department was one vast sheet of flame, and yet there was no help for the terror-stricken people within. Every window in the large structure was crowded with anxious faces, denoting by their frenzied appearance a desire to reach the street, and to get to the fire engines, and to see the engines at work. A few minutes more, and several engines were at their spasmodic puffing and the strenuous exertions of the firemen giving hope to many whom despair had rendered almost powerless.

THE ALARM AND STAMPEDE. At this early hour in the morning, it is to be supposed that many of the occupants of the hotel were in bed. The breakfast table had just been surrounded by the boarders, and the tempting viands spread out before them were being rapidly devoured. A cry of fire from the street below served only to attract attention at first, but when some startled persons in the dining-hall rose from their seats, terrified by the alarm which was repeated by scores of terrified individuals, the intense excitement ensued. Servants, with orders yet unfulfilled, came in collision with retreating guests, and every avenue of escape was sought for by the bewildered crowd. The dining-room is situated directly over the store of Messrs. Rice & Allen, and it is in the Crosby Music Hall building, connecting with the Merchants' Hotel by several doors. "Our mothers ran for their children, and the rooms above, while gentlemen were still in the and valubles, dragged them out behind them." Great presence of mind was exhibited on the part of many, but total inability to move a muscle or the spectacle of the condition of more. The fire in the extreme. From the windows of the building, looking down upon the swaying horde below, there were numerous persons who had just arisen from their beds. Many of these being in great haste, ignorant of the situation, and not knowing which way to turn, looking wildly about them, imploring for help. The flames soon enveloped the stairway leading from the State street entrance, thus cutting off all means of retreat in that direction. The dense smoke drove back the more daring persons who persisted in getting out by pushing their way through the seething fire, step by step down the rickety staircase, and then a rush was made for another door.

RESCUED AND ESCAPED. The greatest exertion was made to give the inmates of the rooms in the upper stories a better opportunity for escape than was afforded by the stairway. By dint of great exertion on the part of the firemen and others, several ladders were placed against the sides of the building, and down these a great many clambered, thus, doubtless, saving their lives. In a window of the fourth story looking on State street, a man was seen in his shirt-sleeve, looking into the street, and apparently unable to make any exertion to escape. He maintained one posture, that of balancing himself on his hands, as if in the act of leaping. A ladder was procured and raised to the window, and the man, who had been from him too great to admit of his reaching it. The greatest anxiety prevailed among those who noticed the jeopardy of the man, and many were the suggestions made for the best manner of giving him aid. Finally a rope was thrown from the roof of the building by a fireman, and catching hold of it, the gentleman managed to lower himself to the first round of the ladder. From this elevation he slowly descended, landing on terra firma in safety. Mr. James Grant, a member of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, with heroic effort rescued the wife of Dr. Thomas T. Ellis, who must otherwise have perished in the flames. From a third-story window, facing on the alley between the hotel and Crosby's Opera-House, a noble fellow carried the lady in his arms, and with one hand guiding his way, he made the perilous descent down the ladder. The lives of two men, who were in the rooms on the fourth story, were also saved by the daring man, Mr. Hurbit, commission merchant, who roomed in one of the highest stories, barely escaped with his life. He was aroused by the strong scent of the sulphurous smoke, and making his way to his room door, dashed out and through the hallway. A gentleman occupying a room directly opposite to him, met him as he made his exit, and hurriedly asked which direction to take in order to get to the stairway. Mr. Hurbit told him to follow, and he did so, and between the intervening flames and clouds of smoke he lost sight of him. Rushing to the head of the stairs, Mr. Hurbit found there a barrier to further effort to reach the street. Nothing daunted, he pushed onward through the seething fire and smothering smoke. Recollecting that once upon a time he had read that to retain one's breath is a preventive of suffocation, he aided by the instruction, and continued on his course. Once he glided in long, glossy locks of hair, but now he is stung and glossy locks minus his luscious beauty. Other interesting particulars of the rescue and escape of persons there are connected with this great conflagration, and we regret that we have not space in which to relate them.

THE DESTRUCTION. Once under full headway, the fire spread over the entire building, and from every window the flames licked the walls, darting forth from the great columns of smoke ascending upward. It was feared at one time that the Opera-House would catch fire, the flames at times completely enveloping the eastern portion of it. Iron shutters were brought into requisition and placed on the interior of the windows, so as to prevent ignition, as ever and anon a fire clean lapping itself about the wall, threatened total destruction in its way. Through the noble conduct of the fire brigade, the Opera-House was saved, however, and it is believed sustained very little damage. The Art Gallery was not injured in the slightest degree, and not a single picture was removed from its hanging. The eastern wall of the Merchants' Hotel is inclined towards the Opera-House, leaning in the alley in a threatening manner, and proper have been placed between the two buildings to prevent its falling. The whole interior portion of the building is one great mass of debris, the floors of the fifth and the lower stories having fallen through in many places, filling the streets on the ground floor with a conglomerate mixture of trunks, boxes, desks, beds, and all conceivable articles of convenience and comfort. The former office consists now only of a chattered pile of chairs, settees, and sofas, which, together with the furniture of rooms above, are huddled together in the basement. The floor of the office gave way under the immense pressure, and, like an inclined plane, leads down to the ruins from

the entrance at the front. All the stores and places in the basement were totally destroyed, their blackened walls and perforated floors giving one a faint idea of the potency of the fire demon.

LOSERS AND INSURANCE. The Merchants' Hotel was owned by General H. L. Stewart, and rented by Messrs. Munger & Jenkins, who have kept it for the last two years. The insurance on the building is \$45,000, which does not half cover its loss, its original cost having been \$75,000, and it being valued at \$100,000 at the present time. General Stewart holds policies in the following-named companies:

Table listing insurance companies and amounts: Fireman's, New York (\$5000); City, Hartford, Connecticut (\$5000); Lafayette, Brooklyn (\$2500); Equitable, Chicago (\$2500); Metropolitan, New York (\$2500); Phoenix, Hartford (\$5000); North American, Hartford (\$5000); New England, Hartford (\$2500); Home Mutual, Chicago (\$2500); Mercantile Mutual, Chicago (\$5000).

INCIDENTS. Among other particulars of the conflagration, we could enumerate many ludicrous incidents which can now be appreciated by every one who was sufferers by them. One young lady, who occupied a suit of rooms on the third floor with her parents, was aroused from her sleep by the suffocating odor of the smoke. Arising in the greatest trepidation, and with eyes distended, she rushed to her bureau, seized her water, and rushed from the room en dash. But what cared she for "appearance sake" at such a time? Another lady, aunt to the one just mentioned, who had a room in another portion of the building, was seen descending the staircase with a shawl over her shoulders, and holding in one hand a bottle of "ozodent," and in the other an album.

Mr. A. C. Appleby, who had occupied room No. 7, finding himself surrounded by fire and smoke, ran for his shirt, in which were three diamond studs. Taking out one of them, he placed it in his mouth, and throwing the article of wearing apparel out of the window with the other two studs in it, he ran out of his room. Having reached the sidewalk, he vainly searched for his shirt and studs, but could not find them. Through the efforts of the police, it was eventually discovered. The studs were valued at \$2000.

THE LOSS OF THE FURNITURE OF THE HOTEL, all of which was destroyed by both fire and water, is roughly estimated at about \$30,000.

Among other particulars of the conflagration, we could enumerate many ludicrous incidents which can now be appreciated by every one who was sufferers by them. One young lady, who occupied a suit of rooms on the third floor with her parents, was aroused from her sleep by the suffocating odor of the smoke. Arising in the greatest trepidation, and with eyes distended, she rushed to her bureau, seized her water, and rushed from the room en dash. But what cared she for "appearance sake" at such a time? Another lady, aunt to the one just mentioned, who had a room in another portion of the building, was seen descending the staircase with a shawl over her shoulders, and holding in one hand a bottle of "ozodent," and in the other an album.

Mr. A. C. Appleby, who had occupied room No. 7, finding himself surrounded by fire and smoke, ran for his shirt, in which were three diamond studs. Taking out one of them, he placed it in his mouth, and throwing the article of wearing apparel out of the window with the other two studs in it, he ran out of his room. Having reached the sidewalk, he vainly searched for his shirt and studs, but could not find them. Through the efforts of the police, it was eventually discovered. The studs were valued at \$2000.

THE LOSS OF THE FURNITURE OF THE HOTEL, all of which was destroyed by both fire and water, is roughly estimated at about \$30,000.

CARPETINGS GLEN ECHO MILLS, GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, McCALLUMS, GREASE & SLOAN, No. 509 CHESNUT STREET.

CANTON MATTINGS, FRESH IMPORTATIONS, All Widths and Styles. McCALLUMS, GREASE & SLOAN, No. 509 CHESNUT STREET.

RETAIL DEPARTMENT, No. 519 CHESNUT STREET, McCALLUMS, GREASE & SLOAN.

CARPETINGS! CARPETINGS! J. T. DELACROIX, No. 37 South SECOND Street.

GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS, JOHN C. ARRISON, Nos. 1 and 3 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

FOR SALE—LARGE AND COMMODIOUS three-story Brick Dwelling, with double fire-places, No. 414 RALPH STREET.

CONCERT HALL, Nos. 127, 129, and 131 CHESNUT STREET.

BOARDING.—BEST LOCATION IN THE CITY. Near the cars. Apply at No. 79 TWELFTH STREET.

WANTED, FIVE HUNDRED RECRUITS for the U. S. Marine Corps. Recruits must be able-bodied, young, unmarried men.

DRY GOODS. J. C. STRAWBRIDGE & CO. Silk and Linen Plaid Poplins. THIS IS THE LAST CASE WE SHALL HAVE OF THESE VERY DESIRABLE GOODS.

NOVELTIES IN CLOAKING. J. C. STRAWBRIDGE & CO. NORTHWEST CORNER EIGHTH AND MARKET STS. PHILADELPHIA.

NOVEMBER 1867. J. C. STRAWBRIDGE & CO. NOW OPEN, A FULL ASSORTMENT OF BEST BLACK SILKS, CHENE SILKS, PLAIN SILKS, PLAID SILKS, FIGURED GRENADINE, HERNANI, FRENCH ORGANDIES AND LAWNS, LARGE VARIETY OF GREY GOODS.

POPULAR PRICES IN SILKS, DRESS GOODS, WHITE GOODS, LINENS, MOURNING GOODS, CASSIMERES, AND HOUSE-FURNISHING DRY GOODS.

JAS. R. CAMPBELL & CO., MILLINERY, TRIMMINGS, ETC. We now offer a large assortment of FANCY BONNETS and TRIMMED HATS, for Ladies, Misses, and Children; and in PRICE, VARIETY, and STYLE, we defy competition.

WOOD & CARY, No. 725 CHESNUT STREET. COPARTNERSHIPS. COPARTNERSHIP.—E. B. EDWARDS (OF the late firm of Mitchell & Edwards) has this day associated with him his son, THOMSON E. EDWARDS.

BAUCH'S RAW BONE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. The great Fertilizer of all crops. Quick in its action, and permanent in its effects.

REMOVAL. R. A. H. LEJAMBRE, No. 1103 CHESNUT STREET, FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERY WAREHOUSES.

AUCTION SALES. M. THOMAS & SONS, NOS. 139 AND 141 N. 7th Street. SALE OF STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE. MAY 7, at 10 o'clock, noon, at the Exchange, will be sold:

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. AT PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, every Friday at 10 o'clock, noon, and 4 o'clock.

AUCTION SALES. M. C. CLARK & BIDDLE, No. 712 CHESNUT STREET. ARE NOW OPENING AN ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF SILVER WARE, BEST ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PLATED WARES, FINE TABLE CUTLERY, FOR BRIDAL AND GENERAL PRESENTATIONS.

BAILEY & CO., No. 819 CHESNUT STREET. Have Just Received per Steamer Pretoria, NEWEST STYLES FRENCH JEWELRY AND PARIS FANS.

MEAD & CO., FORMERLY AT THE CORNER OF NINTH AND CHESNUT STS., ARE NOW AT No. 910 CHESNUT STREET, SECOND FLOOR. C. B. KITCHEN, JEWELER, 8 E. CORNER TENTH AND CHESNUT.

SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY, The Fidelity Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company, for the safe Keeping of Bonds, Stocks, and Other Valuables.

BAUCH'S RAW BONE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. The great Fertilizer of all crops. Quick in its action, and permanent in its effects.

REMOVAL. R. A. H. LEJAMBRE, No. 1103 CHESNUT STREET, FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERY WAREHOUSES.

REMOVAL. R. A. H. LEJAMBRE, No. 1103 CHESNUT STREET, FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERY WAREHOUSES.

REMOVAL. R. A. H. LEJAMBRE, No. 1103 CHESNUT STREET, FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERY WAREHOUSES.